

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01

DRC-01 /180 W

----- 008903

R 021530Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4590

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELBA, IT

SUBJECT: MAY DAY

1. A FEW THOUSAND PEOPLE APPEARED IN ST. JOHN LATERAN SQUARE FOR THE ANNUAL MAY DAY RALLY IN ROME. TURNOUT NATIONWIDE WAS CORRESPONDINGLY SPARSE. LARGEST CROWDS REPORTED IN TURIN (20,000) FOR CISL METALWORKERS CHIEF PIERRE CARNITI, AND MILAN WHERE "TENS OF THOUSANDS" TURNED OUT FOR UIL SEC GEN VANNI. ELSEWHERE, 5,000 REPORTEDLY HEARD CGIL SECRETARY SCHEDA IN NAPLES, "SEVERAL THOUSAND" APPEARED IN FLORENCE WHERE CGIL SEC GEN LAMA SPOKE, AND CISL CHIEF BRUNO STORTI SPOKE TO A MERE THOUSAND IN PALERMO. (IT SHOULD BE ADDED THAT THESE ATTENDANCE FIGURES, DERIVED FROM ANSA, ARE TYPICALLY INFLATED.)

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2. IN ROME, AS ELSEWHERE, LARGE PROPORTION OF THOSE PRESENT

CONSISTED OF STUDENTS AND REPS OF EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS. CISL DEPUTY SEC GEN LUIGI MACARIO SOUNDED THE GENERAL THEME -- LABOR'S DETERMINATION TO CONFRONT THE GOVERNMENT WITH ITS WILL OF REQUIREMENTS: STRONG STEPS TO COMBAT INFLATION, PRICE CONTROLS ON MASS CONSUMED ITEMS, INCREASED INVESTMENTS IN THE SOUTH, AND LOW COST HOUSING. HIS REMARKS WERE CONVENTIONAL, AND RECEIVED WITH RELATIVE APATHY. MACARIO WAS PRECEDED BY PEDRO SOARES, A PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST EXILE, AND JORGE ARRETE OF CHILE. SOARES IN PARTICULAR WAS AT PAINS TO PRAISE THE USSR AND CRITICIZE THE US.

3. COMMENT: THE MAKEUP OF THE CROWD IN ROME WAS REVEALED WHEN MACARIO WAS GREETED WITH CHANTS OF "DOWN WITH THE DC." VARIOUS ODD PUBLICATIONS WERE BEING HAWKED IN THE CROWD BY SUCH GROUPS AS "THE UNITED COMMITTEE AGAINST DAVID NELSON ROCKEFELLER AND THE CIA." THERE WAS NO GOOD EXCUSE FOR THE RELATIVELY LIMITED CROWDS: THE WEATHER WAS NEITHER GOOD ENOUGH TO WARRANT AN OUTING IN THE COUNTRY, NOR POOR ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY STAYING AT HOME. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT LABOR'S LEADERS ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH "LABOR'S PROBLEMS" THAN

ARE THE LABORERS THEMSELVES. VOLPE

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